

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 2.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending March 23, 2003**. Corn planting improved last week with drier conditions, but many soils still need several days more to support planting. Soil moisture was rated 43 percent adequate and 57 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	10	3	13	23	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Jointing	41	25	23	39	1	8	44	45	2
Watermelons	Planted	7	4	3	4	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						3	15	30	45	7
Pasture						5	26	34	31	4
						Short		Adequate		Surplus
Hay Supply						15		76		9
Feed Grain						13		80		7

County Agent Comments

“Rain continues to keep producers out of the field. Farmers need to get in the fields to get the ruts filled in and to plant corn. If it stays wet another 7-10 days, corn acres will be reduced substantially.”

— Mack Young, Quitman County

“Some burndown herbicides have been applied for no-till corn planting. Some field work was done in the hill areas.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton County

“Wheat is beginning to joint, but heavy rains have caused damage to plants. Many farmers are looking for ways to level fields from the wet harvest last year. Pastures are looking good.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah County

“Fields are still very wet with more rain on the way later this week. Operations in the field have halted.”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery County

“Corn planting started again in the driest fields over the weekend. If sunshine would hold for a week, the corn crop would be mostly planted. Plans are for a lot of April planted soybeans if weather permits.”

— Terry Rector, Warren County

“Corn is being planted at a rapid pace. Livestock is beginning to look better after a very hard winter.”

— Jon Kilgore, Lawrence County

“Sunny, warm days toward the end of the week were a welcomed sight for beef and dairy producers who have experienced the worst ryegrass growing season that anyone can remember. Lack of ryegrass has severely hindered cattle weight gains and milk production. Fortunately, the sunny and warmer weather this week allowed ryegrass pastures to green up and develop more growth than at any point thus far this growing season. The fertilizer trucks mudded in some nitrogen topdress applications last week, but with the soil drying conditions we had over the weekend, they should be able to run in full force this week. Dairy producers are getting geared up to begin planting corn for silage as soon as fields dry out enough to allow for tillage. Depressed milk prices, high fuel costs, and high prices for nitrogen fertilizer are all creating a dismal picture for area dairy producers.”

—Lamar Adams, Wathall County

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from March 17, 2003 to March 23, 2003 for Mississippi													
District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				54		0.43	-0.97	2	9.32				
Cleveland	74	42	59	54	+5	1.21	-0.05	1	3.47				
Tunica	75	42	58	54	+4	0.86	-0.44	2	2.36				0.05
Extreme/Average	75	42	58	55	+3	0.83	-0.43	2	6.40				0.05
2. North-Central													
Batesville	76	42	61	53	+8	0.36	-1.02	2	3.40				
Calhoun City	80	44	60	54	+6	0.77	-0.56	3	3.61				
Independence	76	38	57	53	+4	0.49	-0.70	2	2.31				
Oxford	80	39	59	53	+6	0.93	-0.42	2	3.37				
Extreme/Average	80	38	59	54	+5	0.64	-0.69	2	3.17				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	79	45	58	53	+5	1.83	+0.36	3	3.93				
Corinth City	79	45	61	55	+6	1.95	+0.55	3	3.24				
Iuka	79	37	55	51	+4	1.99	+0.44	3	3.73				
Ripley				52		1.67	+0.27	3	3.63				
Tupelo						1.41		3	3.46				
Extreme/Average	79	37	58	54	+4	1.77	+0.37	3	3.60				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				56		0.60	-0.93	1	4.35				
Rolling Fork	77	42	60	57	+3	0.87	-0.58	2	4.17	74	58	66	
Stoneville	74	48	62	56	+6	1.07	-0.23	1	4.20	68	56	62	
Yazoo City	79	46	61	58	+3	0.50	-1.11	2	1.70				
Extreme/Average	79	42	61	57	+4	0.81	-0.53	2	3.36	74	56	64	
5. Central													
Canton	80	40	59	58	+1	1.61	+0.21	2	4.30				
Carthage		40		57		1.06	-0.34	3	3.71				
Lexington	79	44	61	57	+4	0.38	-1.02	1	3.59				
Winona	79	40	57	53	+4	0.99	-0.48	2	4.79				
Extreme/Average	80	40	59	57	+2	1.01	-0.39	2	4.10				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	82	43	59	55	+4	1.44	-0.00	3	5.62				
Houston	79	37	55	54	+1	1.24	-0.27	3	4.00				
Louisville	81	39	60	55	+5	1.91	+0.37	3	5.17				
State University	82	42	59	55	+4	1.66	+0.26	3	5.57	65	57	60	0.12
Extreme/Average	82	37	58	56	+2	1.56	+0.09	3	5.09	65	57	60	0.12
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	80	49	63	59	+4	1.35	-0.04	2	4.16	70	54	62	
Natchez	77	46	61	61	0	1.90	+0.32	3	5.11				
Oakley	79	42	61	58	+3	0.80	-0.67	2	4.05	68	59	64	
Vicksburg	74	43	60			1.50		3	3.80				
Extreme/Average	80	42	61	59	+2	1.39	-0.02	3	4.28	70	54	63	
8. South-Central													
Collins	82	42	61	58	+3	1.45	-0.09	3	4.14				
Columbia	82	43	62	60	+2	0.74	-0.78	3	4.71				
Tylertown	82	43	61	61	0	0.99	-0.44	2	5.13				
Extreme/Average	82	42	61	60	+1	1.06	-0.34	3	4.66				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	82	41	62			1.10		2	8.65				
Hattiesburg	81	42	61	60	+1	1.12	-0.35	3	5.80				
Laurel	82	43	61	58	+3	0.52	-0.90	2	4.01				
Newton	80	39	59	56	+3	1.35	-0.12	3	4.72	68	53	60	0.12
Extreme/Average	82	39	61	59	+2	1.02	-0.45	3	5.80	68	53	60	0.12
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	80	45	63	61	+2	0.58	-0.97	1	2.12				
Gulfport	81	47	66	62	+4	0.71	-0.64	2	4.86				
Pascagoula				60		1.14	-0.28	1	6.25				
Poplarville	80	45	63	60	+3	0.91	-0.56	3	4.93	72	58	64	
Waveland	78	47	63	60	+3	0.78	-0.79	1	4.38				
Extreme/Average	81	45	64	61	+3	0.82	-0.48	2	4.51	72	58	64	
State	82	37	60	57	+3	1.11	-0.27	3	4.48	74	53	62	0.09

DFN = Departure from Normal.